

An Evaluation of Current and Historical Groundwater Pesticide Data in Washington State and It's Applicability to the Generic Pesticide Management Plan

By

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Currently a majority of states have Generic Pesticide Management Plans approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Completion of these Plans are highly encouraged by EPA prior to the Agency completing any revision to its 1996 Pesticide and Groundwater rule. A major requirement to any approvable Plan is the development and implementation of a groundwater monitoring system focused on pesticide occurrence of currently used products. This requirement has caused significant problems for many states because of financial and staff limitations.

Washington State is currently completing a comprehensive evaluation of all existing, high quality groundwater quality data pertaining to pesticide occurrence. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine what is the current and historical condition of the State's water quality, pertaining to pesticides, to the extent practical using existing information. This information is to be used to assess where additional information is required, and to what extent a dedicated groundwater monitoring system will be required in the State.

Additionally, the assessment will provide a substantial foundation on which to evaluate the need for Pesticide Specific Plans once EPA finalizes it's groundwater rule.

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